

IN THE ABSTRACT:

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A bent metal glazing bead that has at least one elongated leg that has at least one portion thereof of a U-shaped cross-section where one side of the U-shape is short and the other side is long and includes a bridge portion. The elongated U-shaped cross-section and bridge portion form a bead. The elongated U-shaped leg with its long side and bridge portion provide a smooth continuous outside surface and an inside U-shaped portion.

The elongated inside U-shaped cross-section leg portion is configured to cooperate in a mating fashion with a portion of a support structure to sandwich a panel on the support structure between the short side of the elongated leg and long side bridge portion and an opposing surface portion of the support structure to thereby glaze the panel in place and simultaneously visually present a smooth continuous outside surface of the glazing bead to mask a junction of the panel with support structure.

Comments

Claims 5-7 and 12-17 remain as elected for examination in the case.

Amendments have been made to address the rejection of claims 5-7 for indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to more clearly define the claimed invention over the cited prior art. As amended, claims 5-7 are believed to be definite and therefore in condition to overcome the noted rejection.

The application has been further reviewed in light of the Official Action and the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 5-7 and 12-17 as being unpatentable over Schilling. In the Schilling patent, which has been addressed in Applicant's specification under "Background of the Invention," page 1, line 29 to page 30, line 3, it was pointed out that Schilling is merely concerned with an extruded mullion that is a snap together construction. The outer trim is solely for cosmetics and it does not hold the panel or glass as does Applicant's bent metal bead construction.

Schilling holds the glass or panel in place between flanges 16 formed by the extrusion mullion 10. The saw tooth or barbed plastic connector strip 40 is used to snap the outer decorative capping 30 or 34 onto the mullion.